

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

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TREATMENT OF VASCULAR NAEVUS BY RADIIUM.—*The New York Medical Journal* has the following: Wickham and De Grais have shown that radium may be utilized with advantage in all forms of vascular naevus, even those regarded as incurable, and state that the forms most easy to cure are those most highly colored and which are rather prominent. The radium is incorporated in a sort of varnish, which is painted on the lesion. The scars are soft, reniform, decolorized, and of fine appearance. The applications cause no pain, so that comparatively large surfaces may be treated, even in infants, and they can be made during sleep.—Report to the Académie de médecine, Paris, in *La Clinique*.

WEIGHT OF CHILDREN.—The following tables, taken from an interesting paper by Dr. Louis H. Schwartz, in the *New York Medical Journal*, will be found useful:

Weight First Twelve Months.—Third to seventh month, add 10 to the month; other months, add 8 to the month.

Thus: What should be the weight of a child at the fourth month? $4 + 10 = 14$ lbs. Or: Wanted the weight of a baby at the tenth month: $10 + 8 = 18$ lbs.

There is only one month in which this rule gives an answer which is not close enough to the average to be right. That is the eighth month. According to the rule, a child at the eighth month should weight 16 lbs., while the average is 17 lbs.

Weight of a Child at Any Age.—Multiply the age of the child plus 1 by 5 and add 10; except for the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth years add 15, 20, and 25 respectively.

Thus: What should be the weight of a child aged four years and three months. Then $4 + 1 = 5$; and $5 \times 5 = 25 + 10 = 35$ lbs. Or: How much should a child weight at the thirteenth year? Then $13 + 1 = 14$; $14 \times 5 = 70 + 20 = 90$ lbs.

POISONING BY CHLORATE OF POTASH.—*The New York Medical Journal* has the following: Ide reports (*Revue médical de Louvain*)

the case of a man, thirty-two years of age, who had a slight sore throat, who, buying some potassium chlorate lozenges, swallowed twenty of them. They were compressed tablets of pure potassium chlorate, the quantity contained in the entire amount swallowed being 6.0 grammes (5iss). The succeeding night the patient experienced abdominal pain, vomited, and had dark liquid stools. The next day there was cyanosis; the vomiting persisted, and there was suppression of urine. A few drops of urine emitted were muddy and of a reddish brown color; it was found to contain albumin and hæmoglobin. The following day there was no vomiting, but cyanosis and anuria persisted. Coma followed, and he died on the eighth day after taking the poison.

EPIDEMIC PNEUMONIA.—In an extremely interesting article on this subject in *The Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* Dr. Marshall Fabry says: Certain articles from the sick-room seem able to transmit the contagion. Flindt reports a case in which the coverings of a bed in which a pneumonia patient died were carried to a house two miles away and, four weeks later, used on the bed of a child, who promptly developed pneumonia. Another child developed pneumonia three days after his father started to repair a chair which was being used by a patient convalescing from pneumonia.

The spread of pneumonia in institutions and cities is only another form of these epidemics. In hospitals bed to bed infection, or the development of several cases in one ward, has suggested the contagiousness of pneumonia, but with ordinary precautions there seems to be very slight danger. A. H. Smith records one case in which the nurse died of the infection caught from her patient. Girdiner reports a second one. Edsall and Ghiskey record a severe case of pneumonia which ended fatally: the two patients who next occupied the bed had mild attacks; two others in nearby beds developed pneumococcal infections; still another case occurred soon after, perhaps by contagion. Upon thorough disinfection no other cases developed.

ABORTION INDUCED BY MEANS OF THE X-RAY.—*The American Journal of Surgery* mentions a case reported by a German contemporary: The patient was a young woman suffering from tuberculosis and three months pregnant, induction of abortion being demanded by the attending and consulting physicians. The patient was subjected to twenty-five X-ray exposures, the ovaries and the thyroid gland being exposed for five to ten minutes on successive days. Adjoining regions

were carefully protected. The abortion was ushered in by cramps and occurred accompanied by hemorrhage, which ceased as soon as the products of conception were expelled.

Exposure of the thyroid to the ray, in three other patients (for goitre) produced irregularity of the menstrual functions, which irregularity lasted for several months after the treatment was stopped.

Each ovarian exposure is followed by uterine contractions manifesting themselves as cramps, also by vesical spasm. A similar phenomenon is noted in experiments on animals.

ERYSIPELAS.—L. N. Boston and A. E. Blackburn state in a paper in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* that they find the incidence and mortality of erysipelas are both decidedly affected by seasonal influences, being highest in the colder months. Age also is an important factor in the mortality, the latter being excessive in early infancy, least in childhood, and gradually increasing from adolescence to old age, when it again becomes excessive. Among their cases both incidence and fatality were very markedly greater in the male than in the female. Their statistics also show that renal complications are to be expected with erysipelas, since of the 483 patients examined in this regard, 327 (67.7 per cent.) were voiding pathological urine. The mortality, however, did not apparently indicate that it was a very serious complication. In 66 of the cases the disease was limited in extent, in 486 it was extensive. The scalp was primarily involved in 12 cases, but of the 485 cases beginning in the face, in only 7 did the disease extend beyond the hair margin, the scalp remaining unaffected. The occurrence of glycosuria in a certain percentage of the cases is mentioned.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.—*The Medical Record* says: The potentialities which lie in preventive medicine, properly applied, are described in a recent issue of the *London Times* in the following words: "No physician entertains the slightest doubt that the ordinary current disease of this country could be diminished by a single year of effective sanitary legislation and administration, say, to one-half of its present amount, and that it is becoming a matter of vital necessity that a correct understanding of this aspect of medicinal questions should be forcibly presented to the public." This is an unexaggerated statement, and may be recommended to the community at large for grave consideration.